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30 March 1960

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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30 MARCH 1960

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

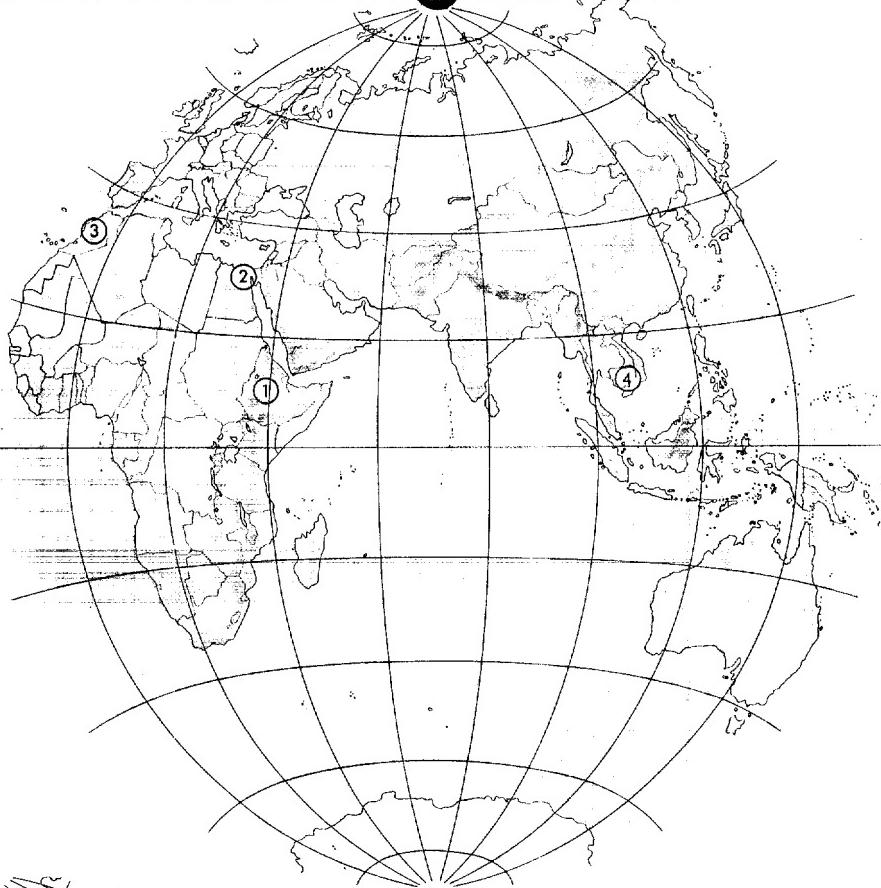
Projects arranged under Soviet \$100 million line of credit for Ethiopia soon giving USSR a "real foothold."

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Differences between Nasir, Qasim, and King Husayn likely to be intensified by Arab League meeting on Palestine on 31 March.

Morocco--King pressing France and Spain to agree to evacuate their forces by end of 1963.

South Vietnam--Large-scale Communist guerrilla attacks continuing in southern area.



III. THE WEST

⑤ Latin American Communists stepping up their Havana-based anti-US campaign.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

30 March 1960

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

USSR-Ethiopia: Addis Ababa announced on 26 March the signing of a protocol with the USSR for use of the \$100,000,000 Soviet line of credit offered last July. The USSR will build an oil refinery and a gold-processing plant, conduct geological surveys, and examine the feasibility of building metallurgical works. [Although the agreement does not fully utilize the line of credit, these projects will, according to the American ambassador, give the USSR a "real foothold."]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Arab States: The already bitter disputes involving Nasir, Qasim, and King Husayn will almost certainly be intensified by the Arab League Council meeting on Palestine to be held in Cairo on 31 March. The UAR will press for its proposal for creation of a separate Palestinian "entity," strongly opposed by Husayn, who fears the possible loss of the largely refugee-inhabited West Bank of Jordan. Qasim, who has refused to send a delegate, on 27 March announced plans for equipping and training an "army of Palestinians" in Iraq.

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Morocco: King Mohamed V has sent a personal message to De Gaulle asking that Paris make an immediate gesture toward the evacuation of French forces remaining in Morocco, and the French ambassador in Morocco flew to Paris on 28 March to support the King's plea. The King has proclaimed 1960 the "year of evacuation," and is pressing Spain as well to agree to evacuate all forces by the end of 1963.]

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South Vietnam: A series of recent attacks in the south involving 100-200 Communist guerrillas in each instance indicates a continuing Communist effort to gain de facto control of the countryside in that area. In concentrating on security patrols and outposts, the Communists apparently hope to lower morale in the Vietnamese military and destroy the people's confidence in the government's ability to protect them.

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III. THE WEST

DK

Cuba: Latin American Communists are stepping up their Havana-based anti-US campaign. Communists and pro-Communists from 15 Latin American countries on 26 March, at the closing ceremonies of the "Week of Solidarity with the Latin American Peoples" in Havana, announced they would launch an "anti-imperialist and anti-feudal revolution" in the hemisphere. The Communist head of the Latin American Workers' Confederation reportedly met secretly in Havana with other labor leaders to prepare a constitution for a new "independent" labor movement in line with the program developed in Moscow a year ago.

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Ethiopia Signs Protocol With Soviet Union

Addis Ababa on 26 March announced the signing of a protocol with the Soviet Union which outlines a series of projects to be included under the \$100,000,000 line of credit extended to Ethiopia last July. Under terms of the agreement, the USSR will establish an oil refinery, construct a gold-processing plant, conduct geological surveys, and examine the possibilities for metallurgical works. [The American ambassador believes that the USSR now has secured a "real foothold."] The communiqué makes no mention of assistance for Ethiopia's proposed agricultural reform plan which was announced by the Emperor last August following his return from Moscow and Prague.

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The agreement follows a period of difficult negotiations. From November until late January, a Soviet delegation was increasingly frustrated by Ethiopian administrative inefficiency and refusal to come to terms. The list of projects under the present protocol apparently will utilize only a relatively small part of the \$100,000,000 credit.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Arab League to Meet on Palestine Question

The already bitter dispute involving Iraq, Jordan, and the UAR over the establishment of a new state of Palestine will probably be intensified by the Arab League meeting to be held in Cairo on 31 March. The UAR's proposal to form a Palestinian "entity" and army, which has been strongly opposed by both Qasim and King Husayn, will be the main topic of discussion, and there is no indication that Cairo intends to let up on the efforts it made at last month's meeting to push through some decision. The previous meeting ended in a deadlock--Jordan refused to accept the UAR proposal and Iraq failed to attend--and a committee was formed to look further into plans "with regard to various national and international aspects of the Palestine question."

Qasim has denounced UAR and Jordanian "occupation" of Palestine in Gaza and West Jordan, and, using only vague terms, has called for re-formation of the old Palestine. On 27 March he also set forth Iraqi plans for training and equipping all Palestinians living in Iraq to form the nucleus of an irredentist army. Qasim has again refused to send an Iraqi delegate to the 31 March meeting, but may send Hashim al-Jawad to the Arab foreign ministers' meeting scheduled for late April in Beirut.

Jordan's probable continued opposition to the UAR proposal severely limits the likelihood that any workable agreement will be reached in Cairo. Husayn has tried to undercut Nasir's efforts to take the lead in the Palestine problem and appears determined to go through with his widely publicized offer of a plebiscite to the West Bank Jordanians. Husayn has also made propaganda capital out of his 27 March exposure of an alleged UAR-backed plot to assassinate Jordanian Prime Minister Majalli.

Morocco to Press for Withdrawal of French Troops

[King Mohamed V sent a personal message to President de Gaulle on 29 March by Moroccan Minister of Defense Aouad asking for an immediate gesture by Paris to reduce the 8,500 French troops now serving in Morocco. The King apparently would be satisfied with a commitment by Paris to withdraw all military forces by the end of 1963, target date for the relinquishment of the remaining three American Air Force bases. A fourth American base, Ben Slimane, was evacuated early this month. The status of the naval air facility at Kenitra (Port Lyautey) has yet to be negotiated.]

[The King, under pressure by both right- and left-wing nationalist groups to secure evacuation of the 6,000 Spanish troops as well as the French forces, referred to 1960 as the "year of evacuation" at a press interview on 18 February during his month-long visit to the Middle East. French Ambassador Parodi left hurriedly for Paris on 28 March ahead of Aouad to urge De Gaulle to strengthen the King's position by complying with the request. The King now appears somewhat reluctant to support the readiness of right-wing nationalists to challenge the political dominance of leftist elements.]

[Spanish Foreign Minister Castilla during his visit to Washington reported Spain's intent to withdraw all forces from Moroccan territory, but not an additional 6,000 troops stationed in the five enclaves and island groups held by Spain in northern Morocco and adjacent waters. Castilla claimed that Madrid is being pressed by Paris not to yield to Morocco's request for a public acknowledgment that Spain will withdraw.]

South Vietnam

Communist guerrilla bands of 100 to 200 men each continue to harass South Vietnam's southern provinces, where terrorism has markedly increased since late last year. Attacks during the past week included a three-hour assault on a Vietnamese battalion's base camp, an ambush of an infantry company on patrol, and a raid on a rubber plantation. According to preliminary reports, government losses in these actions amounted to about 70 killed or missing in action and some 35 wounded. In addition to capturing several rifles, automatic weapons, and at least one mortar from the government forces, the Communists seized medical supplies and rice at the plantation.

The nature of these continuing attacks indicates a determined effort to eliminate Saigon's control over the countryside in the southern region. By concentrating on security patrols and outposts, the Communists apparently hope to lower morale in the Vietnamese military and destroy public confidence in the government's ability to assure protection. The Communist guerrillas, currently estimated at 3,000, have long had the capability of moving against selected military targets but previously had avoided such action.

President Diem is seriously concerned over the switch in Communist tactics, and predicts that the present consolidation of existing guerrilla assets and intimidation of the populace will be followed by infiltration of large numbers of reinforcements from North Vietnam.

III. THE WEST

Communists Extending Cuba-based Activities in Latin America

Communists or pro-Communists from fifteen Latin American countries attended the closing ceremonies of the "Week of Solidarity with the Struggles of the Latin American Peoples" in Havana on 26 March. The "solidarity week" was proclaimed by the Cuban Labor Confederation (CTC), the Communist-infiltrated labor arm of the Castro regime, and warmly endorsed by the Cuban Communist party.

Vicente Lombardo Toledano, veteran Mexican Communist labor leader and head of the Communist-front Confederation of Latin American Workers (CTAL), was among the participants in "solidarity week." During his stay in Havana he is reported to have met with six other Latin American labor leaders to draft a constitution for a proposed new regional labor organization of a "neutralist" orientation and excluding the United States. This project is in accordance with plans discussed in Moscow in early 1959 by representatives of 19 Latin American Communist parties, and has recently been promoted by the principal labor organizations in Cuba and Chile, both of which are strongly Communist influenced.

At the close of "solidarity week" a manifesto was issued calling for the initiation of an "anti-imperialist and anti-feudal revolution in all Latin America" and the strengthening of Latin American solidarity with the Cuban revolution. A Cuban CTC leader announced plans at the same time for a "great Latin American congress to create the apparatus to fight the common enemy... imperialism." He said Cuban delegations will leave on 1 May for other Latin American countries "to give them help and to request aid for the Cuban revolution." Many of the week's manifestations stressed the "unfortunate plight" of Puerto Rico, "still under the bondage of the common enemy."

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Cuba is rapidly becoming a base for Communist activities in the rest of Latin America. The "Latin American Congress," which was promised at the "solidarity week" rally, could serve the purposes of the ostensibly non-Communist "peoples' conference" planned during the early 1959 meetings in Moscow. The increased liaison among Latin American Communists, now possible in Cuba, and the hemispheric "peace conference" planned for Havana in May or June were also elements in the program developed then in Moscow.

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